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AMSAT NEWS SERVICE
ANS-064

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The AMSAT News Service bulletins are a free, weekly news and information service of AMSAT, The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. ANS publishes news related to Amateur Radio in Space including reports on the activities of a worldwide group of Amateur Radio operators who share an active interest in designing, building, launching and communicating through analog and digital Amateur Radio satellites.

The news feed on http://www.amsat.org publishes news of Amateur Radio in Space as soon as our volunteers can post it.

Please send any amateur satellite news or reports to: ans-editor [at] amsat.org

You can sign up for free e-mail delivery of the AMSAT News Service Bulletins via the ANS List; to join this list see: https://mailman.amsat.org/postorius/lists/ans.amsat.org/

ANS-064 AMSAT News Service Weekly Bulletins

To: All RADIO AMATEURS
From: Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation
712 H Street NE, Suite 1653
Washington, DC 20002

DATE 2023 Mar 05

New Satellite Distance Records

IO-117 continues to provide a lot of DX fun for amateur satellite operators. Numerous satellite operators have reported receiving the ARRL's Worked All States and DX Century Club Satellite awards lately as well as CQ Magazine's Worked All Zones Satellite award (25 of 40 zones are required for the satellite award). For an example about the distances that can be worked via this satellite in Medium Earth Orbit (MEO), two QSOs got very near the 13,000 km mark recently.

On February 11, 2023, Dave Fisher, KG0D, worked Lucky Bijanki, VU2LBW. The distance between KG0D in CN88kd and VU2LBW in MK82tv is 12,939 km.

Unfortunately for this claim, Hector Martinez Sis, W5CBF, worked Oleg Vakochine, A65BR, on January 29, 2023 at 21:00 UTC. The distance between W5CBF and A65BR is 12,996 km.

Note that only real-time QSOs will be considered for distance records. Under the ARRL's current interpretation of their award rules, satellite

QSOs involving delayed messaging or store-and-forward systems are not valid for WAS, DXCC, or VUCC. Thus, QSOs made over multiple orbits using this method will not be considered for inclusion in the AMSAT Satellite Distance Records archive.

Also please note that the distance calculator at k7fry.com/grid is used to calculate all distances for AMSAT records purposes. This may not provide the most accurate distance under the most recent geodetic datum standards, but it is a consistent reference.

Anyone who wants to claim a distance record via an amateur satellite should check the current list at https://www.amsat.org/satellite-distance-records/ and email n8hm at arrl.net if they complete a new record distance. Audio and/or video of the QSO is encouraged but not required.

[ANS thanks Paul Stoetzer, N8HM, AMSAT Executive Vice President, for the above information]

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Congratulations to the new VUCC holders.
HL2WP is first VUCC Satellite holder from South Korea and PM47

[ANS thanks Jon Goering, N7AZ, for the above information]

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Contact is go for: Tue 2023-03-07 08:45:03 UTC 27 deg (***)

The crossband repeater continues to be active. If any crewmember is so inclined, all they have to do is pick up the microphone, raise the volume up, and talk on the crossband repeater. So give a listen, you just never know.

Comments on making general contacts

I have been seeing a lot of traffic on Facebook and I suspect on other social media sites with people asking why they are not hearing the crew make general contacts. First off the crew is very busy on the ISS and they simply may not have the time to just pick up the microphone and talk. Also, one needs to be aware of their normal daily schedule. I have listed below the constraints that we at ARISS have to follow in order to schedule the school contacts. Hopefully this will help you better schedule your opportunities.

Typical daily schedule

Wakeup to Workday start= 1.5 hours
Workday start to Workday end=12 hours
Workday end to Sleep= 2 hours
Sleep to wakeup= 8.5 hours

The crew's usual waking period is 0730 - 1930 UTC. The most common times to find a crew member making casual periods are about one hour after waking and before sleeping, when they have personal time. They're usually free most of the weekend, as well.

SSTV events are not that often. So please check out https://www.ariss.org/ for the latest information or watch for the ARISS announcements.

And don’t forget that the packet system is active.

As always, if there is an EVA, a docking, or an undocking; the ARISS radios are turned off as part of the safety protocol.

ARISS Radio Status

Columbus Module radios:
IORS (Kenwood D710GA) – STATUS - Configured. Default mode is for cross band repeater (145.990 MHz up {PL 67} & 437.800 MHz down).
* Powering off for Soyuz 68 undocking on March 28. OFF TBD . ON TBD.
* Powering off for Russian EVA targeting April 19. OFF TBD . ON TBD.
* Powering off for Russian EVA targeting April 26. OFF TBD . ON TBD.
* Powering off for Russian EVA targeting May 04. OFF TBD . ON TBD.
* Powering off for Progress 84 docking on May 24. OFF TBD . ON TBD.
* Capable of supporting USOS scheduled voice contacts, packet and voice repeater ops.

Service Module radios:
IORS (Kenwood D710GA) – STATUS - Configured. Default mode is fo packet operations (145.825 MHz up & down)
* Powering off for Soyuz 68 undocking on March 28. OFF TBD . ON TBD.
* Powering off for Russian EVA targeting April 19. OFF TBD . ON TBD.
* Powering off for Russian EVA targeting April 26. OFF TBD . ON TBD.
* Powering off for Russian EVA targeting May 04. OFF TBD . ON TBD.
* Powering off for Progress 84 docking on May 24. OFF TBD . ON TBD.
* Capable of supporting ROS scheduled voice contacts, packet, SSTV and voice repeater ops.

The latest information on the operation mode can be found at https://www.ariss.org/current-status-of-iss-stations.html

The latest list of frequencies in use can be found at
https://www.ariss.org/contact-the-iss.html

[ANS thanks Charlie Sufana, AJ9N, one of the ARISS operation team mentors for the above information]

Upcoming Satellite Operations

>From AD7DB: AD7DB will activate FM satellites from DM31 on Sat March 18. I may also pop up in DM23 and or DM22 on March 17 and March 19. Follow me on Twitter for updates.

Please submit any additions or corrections to k5zm (at) comcast (dot) net.

[ANS thanks Ian Parsons, K5ZM, AMSAT rover page manager, for the above information]

Hamfests, Conventions, Maker Faires, and Other Events

AMSAT Ambassadors provide presentations, demonstrate communicating through amateur satellites, and host information tables at club meetings, hamfests, conventions, maker faires, and other events.

Hamvention 2023
May 19-21, 2023
Stay tuned for announcements about AMSAT Hamvention activites, including the TAPR/AMSAT Dinner.

[ANS thanks AMSAT for the above information]

Satellite Shorts From All Over

+ The FO-99 operation schedule for March is available at
https://www.jamsat.or.jp/?p=2100 (Thanks to JAMSAT for this information)

+ The SpaceX Crew-6 mission launched to the ISS on Thursday March 2nd with the crew arriving on Friday. Sultan Al Neyadi, KI5VTV, is scheduled to make the first ARISS QSO from the new crew on Tuesday. (Thanks to NASA and ARISS for this information)

+ USA ARISS contact proposals for January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024 are due March 31, 2023. For details see
https://ariss-usa.org/message-to-us-educators-amateur-radio-on-the-international-space-station-contact-opportunity-4/
(Thanks to ARISS for this information)

+ FO-118's camera has been active with a new protocol to more easily reconstruct image data. For details, see version 2.1 of the user manual at
https://mega.nz/file/4rIywT5L#WoZsMxzIkUKhqHTrYh__nvv_N9CGwVV-dLsJ2k4_2OA
(Thanks to CAMSAT for the inforamtion)

+ Happy 54th Birthday to AMSAT! AMSAT was officially incorporated in the District of Columbia on March 3, 1969.

Join AMSAT today at https://launch.amsat.org/

In addition to regular membership, AMSAT offers membership to:

* Societies (a recognized group, clubs or organization).
* Primary and secondary school students are eligible for membership at one-half the standard yearly rate.
* Post-secondary school students enrolled in at least half time status shall be eligible for the student rate for a maximum of 6 post-secondary years in this status.
* Memberships are available for annual and lifetime terms.

Contact info [at] amsat.org for additional membership information.

73 and remember to help Keep Amateur Radio in Space!

This week's ANS Editor,

Paul Stoetzer, N8HM
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